



APPLICATION FOR PATENT

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TITLE: LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY AND THIN FILM TRANSISTOR ARRAY PANEL
THEREFOR

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KOREAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

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COMMISSIONER

I, the undersigned, who have prepared English translation which is attached herewith, hereby declare that the aforementioned translation is true and correct translation of officially certified copy of the Korean Patent Application No. 10-2003-0018195 filed on March 24, 2003.

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[ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE]

[ABSTRACT]

A thin film transistor array panel is provided, which includes: a substrate; a gate line formed on the substrate and including a gate electrode; a gate insulating layer
5 formed on the gate line; a semiconductor layer formed on the gate insulating layer; a data line formed on the semiconductor layer at least in part and including a curved portion and an intermediate portion crossing the gate line substantially at a right angle, at least one of the curved portions and the intermediate portions having a source electrode; a drain electrode formed on the semiconductor layer at least in part and
10 separated from the data line; a first passivation layer formed on the data line and the drain electrode; and a pixel electrode formed on the first passivation layer, connected to the drain electrode, and having an edge extending substantially parallel to the curved portion of the data line.

[SPECIFICATION]

[TITLE OF THE INVENTION]

**MULTI DOMAIN LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY AND THIN FILM TRANSISTOR
ARRAY PANEL THEREFOR**

5 [BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS]

Fig. 1 is a layout view of a TFT array panel for an LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a layout view of a common electrode panel for an LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig. 3 is a layout view of an LCD including the TFT array panel shown in Fig. 1 and the common electrode panel shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 3 taken along the line IV-IV';

15 Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 3 taken along the lines V-V' and V'-V'';

Figs. 6A and 6B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Figs. 1, 4 and 5 taken along the line IV-IV' and the lines V-V' and V'-V'', respectively, in an intermediate step of a manufacturing method thereof according to an embodiment of the present invention;

20 Figs. 7A and 7B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Figs. 1, 4 and 5 taken along the line IV-IV' and the lines V-V' and V'-V'', respectively, in the step of the manufacturing method following the step shown in Figs. 4A and 4B;

Fig. 8 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention;

25 Fig. 9 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 8 taken along the line IX-IV';

Fig. 10 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 8 taken along the lines X-X' and X'-X'';

30 Figs. 11A and 11B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Fig. 8-10 taken along the line IX-IX' and the lines X-X' and X'-X'', respectively, in an intermediate step of a manufacturing method thereof according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 12A and 12B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Fig. 8-10 taken along the line IX-IX' and the lines X-X' and X'-X'' in the step of the manufacturing method following the step shown in Figs. 11A and 11B;

5 Figs. 13A and 13B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Fig. 8-10 taken along the line IX-IX' and the lines X-X' and X'-X'' in the step of the manufacturing method following the step shown in Figs. 12A and 12B;

Fig. 14 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig. 15 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 14 taken along the line XV-XV';

Fig. 16 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 14 taken along the lines XVI-XVI' and XVI'-XVI'';

Fig. 17 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention;

15 Fig. 18 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 17 taken along the line XVIII-XVIII';

Fig. 19 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 17 taken along the lines XIX-XIX' and XIX'-XIX'';

20 Figs. 20 and 21 are sectional views of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 22 and 23 are sectional views of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 24 and 25 are sectional views of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention;

25 Figs. 26 and 27 are sectional views of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 28 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

30 Fig. 29 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

[OBJECT OF THE INVENTION]

[FIELD OF THE INVENTION AND CONVENTIONAL ART IN THE FIELD]

The present invention relates to a liquid crystal display and a thin film transistor array panel therefor.

5 A liquid crystal display (LCD) is one of the most widely used flat panel displays. LCDs are used in notebook or laptop computers, desktop computer monitors and televisions. LCDs are lightweight and occupy less space than conventional cathode ray tube (CRT) displays.

The general structure of an LCD consists of a liquid crystal (LC) layer that is positioned between pair of panels including field generating electrodes and polarizers. 10 The LC layer is subject to an electric field generated by the electrodes and variations in the field strength change the molecular orientation of the LC layer. For example, upon application of an electric field, the molecules of the LC layer change their orientation and polarize light passing through the LC layer. Appropriately positioned polarized filters block the polarized light, creating dark areas that can represent desired images. 15

One measure of LCD quality is viewing angle (i.e., the available area when viewing the LCD in which minimum contrast can be seen). Various techniques for enlarging the viewing angle have been suggested, including a technique utilizing a vertically aligned LC layer and providing cutouts or protrusions at pixel electrodes. 20 However, cutouts and the protrusions reduce the aperture ratio (i.e., ratio between the actual size of a sub-pixel and the area of the sub-pixel that can transmit light). To increase aperture ratio, it has been suggested that the size of the pixel electrodes be maximized. However, maximization of the size of the pixel electrodes results in a close distance between the pixel electrodes, causing strong lateral electric fields between the pixel electrodes. The strong electric fields cause unwanted altering of the orientation of the LC molecules, yielding textures and light leakage and deteriorating display characteristics. 25

[TECHNICAL TASK OF THE INVENTION]

It is an object of the present invention to provide a liquid crystal display that realizes a stable multi domain. 30

[CONFIGURATION AND OPERATION OF THE INVENTION]

A thin film transistor array panel is provided, which includes: a substrate; a plurality of first signal lines formed on the substrate, extending in a first direction, and separated from each other by a predetermined interval; a plurality of second lines formed on the substrate, intersecting the first signal lines, and including a plurality of curved portions and intermediate portions extending in a second direction and alternately arranged by the predetermined interval; a plurality of pixel electrodes located substantially in areas defined by the first and the second signal lines; and a plurality of thin film transistors connected to the first and the second signal lines and the pixel electrodes.

Each of the curved portions of the data lines may include a pair of rectilinear portions connected to each other and making an angle of about 45 degrees.

The thin film transistor array panel may further include a plurality of third signal lines formed on the substrate, extending substantially in the first direction, and overlapping the pixel electrodes to form storage capacitors.

The thin film transistors may include terminal electrodes connected to the pixel electrodes and overlapping one of the third signal lines with interposing an insulator.

The thin film transistors may include terminal electrodes connected to the intermediate portions of the second signal lines.

The first signal lines may intersect the intermediate portions of the second signal lines.

A thin film transistor array panel is provided, which includes: a substrate; a gate line formed on the substrate and including a gate electrode; a gate insulating layer formed on the gate line; a semiconductor layer formed on the gate insulating layer; a data line formed on the semiconductor layer at least in part and including a curved portion and an intermediate portion crossing the gate line substantially at a right angle, at least one of the curved portions and the intermediate portions having a source electrode; a drain electrode formed on the semiconductor layer at least in part and separated from the data line; a first passivation layer formed on the data line and the drain electrode; and a pixel electrode formed on the first passivation layer, connected to the drain electrode, and having an edge extending substantially parallel to the curved portion of the data line.

The curved portion of the data line may include a pair of portions making a clockwise angle of about 45 degrees and a counterclockwise angle of about 45 degrees, respectively.

5 The thin film transistor array panel may further include a storage electrode line formed on the substrate, extending substantially parallel to the gate lines, and including a storage electrode having an increased width, wherein the drain electrode has an expansion connected to the pixel electrode and overlapping the storage electrode.

10 The first passivation layer may include organic insulating material, and it is preferably made of photosensitive material.

The first passivation layer may include inorganic insulating material.

The thin film transistor array panel may further include a color filter formed on the first passivation layer.

The color filter may extend substantially parallel to the data line.

15 The color filter may have an opening on the drain electrode, the first passivation layer may have a contact hole exposing at least a portion of the drain electrode, and the pixel electrode is preferably connected to the drain electrode through the opening and the contact hole.

The opening may expose a top surface of the first passivation layer.

20 The thin film transistor array panel may further include a contact assistant formed on a portion of the gate line or a portion of the data line and made of the same material as the pixel electrode. The color filter may include a portion formed under the contact assistant.

25 The thin film transistor array panel may further include a second passivation layer formed on the color filter and made of a photosensitive organic material.

The first and the second passivation layers may have a contact hole that exposes at least a portion of the drain electrode and may have a sidewall making an angle of about 30 degrees to about 85 degrees with a surface of the substrate.

30 The first and the second passivation layers may have a contact hole that exposes at least a portion of the drain electrode and may have a stepped sidewall.

The pixel electrode may be connected to the drain electrode through the contact hole.

Entire bottom surfaces of the data line and the drain electrode may be disposed substantially on the semiconductor layer, the data line and the drain electrode may have substantially the same planar shape as the semiconductor layer, and the semiconductor layer may include a portion that is not covered with the data line and the drain electrode and disposed between the source electrode and the drain electrode.

A length of the curved portion of the data line may be about one to nine times a length of the intermediate portion of the data line.

The thin film transistor array panel may further include a pair of color filters formed on the first passivation layer and partly overlapping each other to form a hill.

The thin film transistor array panel may further include a second passivation layer formed on the color filters and forming a projection on the hill of the color filters.

A liquid crystal display is provided, which includes: a first substrate; a plurality of first signal lines formed on the substrate; a plurality of second lines formed on the substrate, intersecting the first signal lines, and including a plurality of curved portions; a plurality of pixel electrodes located substantially in areas defined by the first and the second signal lines; a plurality of thin film transistors connected to the first and the second signal lines and the pixel electrodes; a second substrate facing the second substrate; a common electrode formed on the second substrate; a region partitioning member formed on at least one of the first and the second substrates; and a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first substrate and the second substrate and partitioned into a plurality of tilt regions by the region partitioning member, each tilt region including a pair of major edges parallel to the curved portions of the second signal lines.

The liquid crystal layer may have negative dielectric anisotropy and is subject to vertically alignment.

The region partitioning member may include a plurality of cutouts formed in the common electrode. The cutouts may have width ranging about 9 microns to about 12 microns.

A distance between the major edges of each region may be in a range between about 10 microns and about 30 microns.

The tilt regions are preferably classified into four domains based on tilt directions of liquid crystal molecules included therein upon application of an electric field.

5 The number of the tilt regions in a pixel region defined by the first signal lines and the second signal lines may be four if a planar area of the pixel region is smaller than about 100×300 square microns, and the number of the tilt regions in a pixel region defined by the first signal lines and the second signal lines is four or eight if a planar area of the pixel region is equal to or larger than about 100×300 square microns.

10 A pair of crossed polarizers may be provided on outer surfaces of the first and the second substrates, respectively, and the first and the second polarizers are preferably aligned so that one of the transmissive axes of the polarizers be parallel to the first signal lines.

The region partitioning member comprises a protrusion formed on the common electrode and having a width ranging about 5 microns to about 10 microns.

15 A liquid crystal display is provided, which includes: a first substrate; a plurality of first signal lines formed on the substrate; a plurality of second lines formed on the substrate, intersecting the first signal lines, and including a plurality of curved portions; a plurality of pixel electrodes located substantially in areas defined by the first and the second signal lines; a plurality of thin film transistors connected to the first and the second signal lines and the pixel electrodes; a second substrate facing the second substrate; a common electrode formed on the second substrate; a region partitioning member formed on at least one of the first and the second substrates; and a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first substrate and the second substrate and partitioned into a plurality of tilt regions by the region partitioning member, wherein
20 liquid crystal molecules included in each tilt region tend to tilt in a direction parallel to an electric field generated between adjacent pixel electrodes.
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A pair of crossed polarizers may be provided on outer surfaces of the first and the second substrates, respectively, and the first and the second polarizers are aligned so that one of the transmissive axes of the polarizers is parallel to the first signal lines.

30 The present invention now will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown. The present invention may, however, be embodied in many

different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein.

In the drawings, the thickness of layers, films and regions are exaggerated for clarity. Like numerals refer to like elements throughout. It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, film, region or substrate is referred to as being "on" another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on" another element, there are no intervening elements present.

Now, liquid crystal displays and thin film transistor (TFT) array panels for LCDs according to embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 is a layout view of a TFT array panel for an LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention, Fig. 2 is a layout view of a common electrode panel for an LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention, Fig. 3 is a layout view of an LCD including the TFT array panel shown in Fig. 1 and the common electrode panel shown in Fig. 2, Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 3 taken along the line IV-IV', and Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 3 taken along the lines V-V' and V'-V''.

An LCD according to an embodiment of the present invention includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel facing the TFT array panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed between the TFT array panel and the common electrode panel.

The TFT array panel is now described in detail with reference to Figs. 1, 4 and 5.

A plurality of gate lines 121 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 are formed on an insulating substrate 110.

The gate lines 121 extend substantially in a transverse direction and are separated from each other and transmit gate signals. Each gate line 121 includes a plurality of projections forming a plurality of gate electrodes 123 and an end portion 125 having a large area for contact with another layer or an external device.

Each storage electrode line 131 extends substantially in the transverse direction and includes a plurality of projections forming storage electrodes 133. Each storage electrode 133 has a shape of a diamond or a rectangle rotated by about 45

degrees and they are located close to the gate lines 121. The storage electrode lines 131 are supplied with a predetermined voltage such as a common voltage, which is applied to a common electrode 270 on the common electrode panel of the LCD.

The gate lines 121 and the storage electrode lines 131 have a multi-layered structure including two films having different physical characteristics, a lower film and an upper film. The upper film is preferably made of low resistivity metal including Al containing metal such as Al and Al alloy, Ag containing metal such as Ag and Ag alloy, or Cu containing metal such as Cu and Cu alloy for reducing signal delay or voltage drop in the gate lines 121 and the storage electrode lines 131. On the other hand, the lower film is preferably made of material such as Cr, Mo, Mo alloy, Ta, or Ti, which has good physical, chemical, and electrical contact characteristics with other materials such as indium tin oxide (ITO) or indium zinc oxide (IZO). A good exemplary combination of the lower film material and the upper film material is Cr and Al-Nd alloy. In Figs. 4, the lower and the upper films of the gate electrodes 123 are indicated by reference numerals 231 and 232, respectively, the lower and the upper films of the end portions 125 are indicated by reference numerals 251 and 252, respectively, and the lower and the upper films of the storage electrodes 133 are indicated by reference numerals 331 and 332, respectively. Portions of the upper film 252 of the end portions 125 of the gate lines 121 are removed to expose the underlying portions of the lower films 251.

The gate lines 121 and the storage electrode lines 131 may have a single layer structure or may include three or more layers.

In addition, the lateral sides of the gate lines 121 and the storage electrode lines 131 are inclined relative to a surface of the substrate 110, and the inclination angle thereof ranges about 30-80 degrees.

A gate insulating layer 140 preferably made of silicon nitride (SiN_x) is formed on the gate lines 121 and the storage electrode lines 131.

A plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 preferably made of hydrogenated amorphous silicon (abbreviated as "a-Si") or polysilicon are formed on the gate insulating layer 140. Each semiconductor stripe 151 extends substantially in the longitudinal direction while it is curved periodically. Each semiconductor stripe 151

has a plurality of projections 154 branched out toward the gate electrodes 123. Each semiconductor island 150 is located opposite the gate electrodes 123.

5 A plurality of ohmic contact stripes and islands 161 and 165 preferably made of silicide or n+ hydrogenated a-Si heavily doped with n type impurity are formed on the semiconductor stripes 151. Each ohmic contact stripe 161 has a plurality of projections 163, and the projections 163 and the ohmic contact islands 165 are located in pairs on the projections 154 of the semiconductor stripes 151.

10 The lateral sides of the semiconductor stripes 151 and the ohmic contacts 161 and 165 are inclined relative to a surface of the substrate 110, and the inclination angles thereof are preferably in a range between about 30-80 degrees.

A plurality of data lines 171 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 separated from each other are formed on the ohmic contacts 161 and 165 and the gate insulating layer 140.

15 The data lines 171 for transmitting data voltages extend substantially in the longitudinal direction and intersect the gate lines 121 and the storage electrode lines 131. Each data line 171 has an end portion 179 having a large area for contact with another layer or an external device and it includes a plurality of pairs of oblique portions and a plurality of longitudinal portions such that it curves periodically. A pair of oblique portions are connected to each other to form a chevron and opposite ends of the pair of oblique portions are connected to respective longitudinal portions. The oblique portions of the data lines 171 make an angle of about 45 degrees with the gate lines 121, and the longitudinal portions cross over the gate electrodes 123. The length of a pair of oblique portions is about one to nine times the length of a longitudinal portion, that is, it occupies about 50-90 percents of the total length of the pair of oblique portions and the longitudinal portion.

25 Each drain electrode 175 includes a rectangular expansion overlapping a storage electrode 133. The edges of the expansion of the drain electrode 175 are substantially parallel to the edges of the storage electrodes 133. Each longitudinal portion of the data lines 171 includes a plurality of projections such that the longitudinal portion including the projections forms a source electrode 173 partly enclosing an end portion of a drain electrode 175. Each set of a gate electrode 123, a source electrode 173, and a drain electrode 175 along with a projection 154 of a

semiconductor stripe 151 form a TFT having a channel formed in the semiconductor projection 154 disposed between the source electrode 173 and the drain electrode 175.

The data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 also include a lower film 711 and 751 preferably made of Mo, Mo alloy or Cr and an upper film 712 and 752 located thereon and preferably made of Al containing metal. In Figs. 4 and 5, the lower and the upper films of the source electrodes 173 are indicated by reference numerals 731 and 732, respectively, and the lower and the upper films of the end portions 179 of the data lines 171 are indicated by reference numerals 791 and 792, respectively. Portion of the upper films 792, 752 of the expansions 179 of the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 are removed to expose the underlying portions of the lower films 791 and 751.

Like the gate lines 121 and the storage electrode lines 131, the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 have inclined lateral sides, and the inclination angles thereof range about 30-80 degrees.

The ohmic contacts 161 and 165 are interposed only between the underlying semiconductor stripes 151 and the overlying data lines 171 and the overlying drain electrodes 175 thereon and reduce the contact resistance therebetween.

A passivation layer 180 is formed on the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175, and exposed portions of the semiconductor stripes 151, which are not covered with the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175. The passivation layer 180 is preferably made of photosensitive organic material having a good flatness characteristic, low dielectric insulating material such as a-Si:C:O and a-Si:O:F formed by plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD), or inorganic material such as silicon nitride and silicon oxide. The passivation layer 180 may have a double-layered structure including a lower inorganic film and an upper organic film.

The passivation layer 180 has a plurality of contact holes 181b and 183b exposing the drain electrodes 175 and the end portions 179 of the data lines 171, respectively. The passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140 have a plurality of contact holes 182b exposing the end portions 125 of the gate lines 121. The contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b can have various shapes such as polygon or circle. The area of each contact hole 182b or 183b is preferably equal to or larger than $0.5\text{mm} \times 15\mu\text{m}$ and not larger than $2\text{mm} \times 60\mu\text{m}$. The sidewalls 181a, 182a and 183a of

the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b are inclined with an angle of about 30-85 degrees or have stepwise profiles.

A plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97, which are preferably made of ITO or IZO, are formed on the passivation layer 180.

5 Each pixel electrode 190 is located substantially in an area enclosed by the data lines 171 and the gate lines 121, and thus it also forms a chevron. The pixel electrodes 190 cover the storage electrode lines 131 including the storage electrodes 133 and the expansions of the drain electrodes 175 and have chamfered edges substantially parallel to edges of the storage electrodes 133 that are close to the chamfered edges.

10 The pixel electrodes 190 are physically and electrically connected to the drain electrodes 175 through the contact holes 181 such that the pixel electrodes 190 receive the data voltages from the drain electrodes 175. The pixel electrodes 190 supplied with the data voltages generate electric fields in cooperation with the common electrode 270, which reorient liquid crystal molecules disposed therebetween.

15 A pixel electrode 190 and a common electrode form a capacitor called a "liquid crystal capacitor," which stores applied voltages after turn-off of the TFT. An additional capacitor called a "storage capacitor," which is connected in parallel to the liquid crystal capacitor, is provided for enhancing the voltage storing capacity. The storage capacitors are implemented by overlapping the pixel electrodes 190 with the storage electrode lines 131. The capacitances of the storage capacitors, i.e., the storage capacitances are increased by providing the projections (i.e., the storage electrodes) 133 at the storage electrode lines 131, elongating the drain electrodes 175 connected to the pixel electrodes 190, and providing the expansions at the drain electrodes 175 overlapping the storage electrodes 133 of the storage electrode lines 131 for decreasing the distance between the terminals and increasing the overlapping areas.

25 The pixel electrodes 190 overlap the data lines 171 as well as the gate lines 121 to increase aperture ratio.

The contact assistants 95 and 97 are connected to the exposed end portions 125 of the gate lines 121 and the exposed end portions 179 of the data lines 171 through the contact holes 181 and 182, respectively. The contact assistants 95 and 97 protect the exposed portions 125 and 179 and complement the adhesiveness of the exposed portions 125 and 179 and external devices.

Finally, an alignment layer (not shown) is formed on the pixel electrodes 190, the contact assistants 95 and 97, and the passivation layer 180.

The description of the common electrode panel follows with reference to Figs. 2, 4 and 5.

5 A light blocking member called a light blocking member 220 is formed on an insulating substrate 210 such as transparent glass and it includes a plurality of oblique portions facing the oblique portions of the data lines 171 and a plurality of right-angled-triangular portions facing the TFTs and the longitudinal portions of the data lines 171 such that the light blocking member 220 prevents light leakage between the pixel electrodes 190 and defines open areas facing the pixel electrodes 190. Each of the triangular portions of the light blocking member 220 has a hypotenuse parallel to a chamfered edge of a pixel electrode 190.

10 A plurality of color filters 230 are formed on the substrate 210 and the light blocking member 220 and it is disposed substantially in the open areas defined by the light blocking member 220. The color filters 230 disposed in adjacent two data lines 171 and arranged in the longitudinal direction may be connected to each other to form a stripe. Each color filter 230 may represent one of three primary colors such as red, green and blue colors.

15 An overcoat 250 preferably made of organic material is formed on the color filters 230 and the light blocking member 220. The overcoat 250 protects the color filters 230 and has a flat top surface.

20 A common electrode 270 preferably made of transparent conductive material such as ITO and IZO is formed on the overcoat 250. The common electrode 270 is supplied with the common voltage and it has a plurality of chevron-like cutouts 271. Each cutout 271 includes a pair of oblique portions connected to each other, a transverse portion connected to one of the oblique portions, and a longitudinal portion connected to the other of the oblique portions. The oblique portions of the cutout 271 extend substantially parallel to the oblique portions of the data lines 171 and face a pixel electrode 190 so that they may bisect the pixel electrode 190 into left and right halves. The transverse and the longitudinal portions of the cutout 271 are aligned with transverse and longitudinal edges of the pixel electrode 190, respectively, and they make obtuse angles with the oblique portions of the cutout 190. The cutouts 271

25 30

are provided for controlling the tilt directions of the LC molecules in the LC layer 3 and preferably have a width in a range between about 9-12 microns. The cutouts 271 may be substituted with protrusions preferably made of organic material and preferably having width ranging about 5 microns to 10 microns.

5 A homogeneous or homeotropic alignment layer (not shown) is coated on the common electrode 270.

A pair of polarizers 12 and 22 are provided on outer surfaces of the panels such that their transmissive axes are crossed and one of the transmissive axes is parallel to the gate lines 121.

10 The LCD may further include at least one retardation film for compensating the retardation of the LC layer 3 and a backlight unit for providing light for the LCD.

The LC layer 3 has negative dielectric anisotropy and the LC molecules in the LC layer 3 are aligned such that their long axes are vertical to the surfaces of the panels in absence of electric field.

15 Upon application of the common voltage to the common electrode 270 and a data voltage to the pixel electrodes 190, a primary electric field substantially perpendicular to the surfaces of the panels is generated. The LC molecules tend to change their orientations in response to the electric field such that their long axes are perpendicular to the field direction. In the meantime, the cutouts 271 of the common
20 electrode 270 and the edges of the pixel electrodes 190 distort the primary electric field to have a horizontal component which determines the tilt directions of the LC molecules. The horizontal component of the primary electric field is perpendicular to the edges of the cutouts 271 and the edges of the pixel electrodes 190.

Accordingly, four sub-regions having different tilt directions, which are
25 partitioned by edges of a pixel electrode 190, a cutout 271 bisecting the pixel electrode 190, and an imaginary transverse center line passing through the meeting point of the oblique portions of the cutout 271, are formed in a pixel region of the LC layer 3, which are located on the pixel electrode 190. Each sub-region has two major edges defined by the cutout 271 and an oblique edge of the pixel electrode 190, respectively, which
30 are spaced apart preferably from about 10 microns to about 30 microns. The number of the sub-regions in a pixel region is preferably four if the planar area of the pixel region is smaller than about 100×300 square microns, and, if not, it is preferably four or

eight. The number of the sub-regions can be varied by changing the number of the cutouts 271 of the common electrode 270, by providing cutouts at the pixel electrodes 190, or by changing the number of curved points of the edges of the pixel electrodes 190. The sub-regions are classified into a plurality of, preferably four, domains based on the tilt directions.

In the meantime, the direction of a secondary electric field due to the voltage difference between the pixel electrodes 190 is perpendicular to the edges of the cutouts 271. Accordingly, the field direction of the secondary electric field coincides that of the horizontal component of the primary electric field. Consequently, the secondary electric field between the pixel electrodes 190 enhances the determination of the tilt directions of the LC molecules.

Since the LCD performs inversion such as dot inversion, column inversion, etc., adjacent pixel electrodes are supplied with data voltages having opposite polarity with respect to the common voltage and thus a secondary electric field between the adjacent pixel electrodes is almost always generated to enhance the stability of the domains.

Since the tilt directions of all domains make an angle of about 45 degrees with the gate lines 121, which are parallel to or perpendicular to the edges of the panels, and the 45-degree intersection of the tilt directions and the transmissive axes of the polarizers gives maximum transmittance, the polarizers can be attached such that the transmissive axes of the polarizers are parallel to or perpendicular to the edges of the panels and it reduces the production cost.

The resistance increase of the data lines 171 due to the curving can be compensated by widening the data lines 171 since distortion of the electric field and increase of the parasitic capacitance due to the increase of the width of the data lines 171 can be compensated by maximizing the size of the pixel electrodes 190 and by adapting a thick organic passivation layer.

A method of manufacturing the TFT array panel shown in Figs. 1-5 according to an embodiment of the present invention will be now described in detail with reference to Figs. 6A, 6B, 7A and 7B as well as Figs. 1-5.

Figs. 6A and 6B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Figs. 1, 4 and 5 taken along the line IV-IV' and the lines V-V' and V'-V'', respectively, in an

intermediate step of a manufacturing method thereof according to an embodiment of the present invention, and Figs. 7A and 7B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Figs. 1, 4 and 5 taken along the line IV-IV' and the lines V-V' and V'-V'', respectively, in the step of the manufacturing method following the step shown in Figs. 6A and 6B.

Referring to Figs. 1, 6A and 6B, a lower conductive film preferably made of Cr, Mo, or Mo alloy and an upper conductive film preferably made of Al containing metal or Ag containing metal are sputtered in sequence on an insulating substrate 110 and they are wet or dry etched in sequence to form a plurality of gate lines 121, each including a plurality of gate electrodes 123 and an expansion 125, and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 including a plurality of storage electrodes 133. In Figs. 6A and 6B, the lower and the upper films of the gate electrodes 123 are indicated by reference numerals 231 and 232, respectively, the lower and the upper films of the expansions 125 are indicated by reference numerals 251 and 252, respectively, and the lower and the upper films of the storage electrodes 133 are indicated by reference numerals 331 and 332, respectively.

After sequential deposition of a gate insulating layer 140 with thickness of about 1,500-5,000 Å, an intrinsic a-Si layer with thickness of about 500-2,000 Å, and an extrinsic a-Si layer with thickness of about 300-600 Å, the extrinsic a-Si layer and the intrinsic a-Si layer are photo-etched to form a plurality of extrinsic semiconductor stripes and a plurality of intrinsic semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154 on the gate insulating layer 140.

Subsequently, two conductive films including a lower conductive film and an upper conductive film and having a thickness of 1,500-3,000 Å are sputtered in sequence and patterned to form a plurality of data lines 171, each including a plurality of source electrodes 173 and an expansion 179, and a plurality of drain electrodes 175. The lower conductive film is preferably made of Cr, Mo, or Mo alloy, and the upper conductive film is preferably made of Al containing metal or Ag containing metal. In Figs. 6A and 6B, the lower and the upper films of the drain electrodes 171 are indicated by reference numerals 711 and 712, respectively, the lower and the upper films of the source electrodes 173 are indicated by reference numerals 731 and 732, respectively, the lower and the upper films of the drain electrodes 175 are indicated by reference

numerals 751 and 752, respectively, and the lower and the upper films of the end portions 179 of the data lines 171 are indicated by reference numerals 791 and 792, respectively.

Thereafter, portions of the extrinsic semiconductor stripes, which are not covered with the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175, are removed to complete a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 and to expose portions of the intrinsic semiconductor stripes 151. Oxygen plasma treatment preferably follows in order to stabilize the exposed surfaces of the semiconductor stripes 151.

Referring to Figs. 1, 7A and 7B, a passivation layer 180 made of a photosensitive organic insulator is coated and exposed through a photo-mask 500 having a plurality of transmissive areas 502 and a plurality of slit areas 501 disposed around the transmissive areas 502. Accordingly, portions of the passivation layer 180 facing the transmissive areas 502 absorb the full energy of the light, while portions of the passivation layer 180 facing the slit areas 501 partially absorb the light energy. The passivation layer 180 is then developed to form a plurality of contact holes 181b and 183b exposing portions of the drain electrodes 175 and portions of the expansions 179 of the data lines 171, respectively, and to form upper portions of a plurality of contact holes 182b exposing portions of the gate insulating layer 140 disposed on the expansions 125 of the gate lines 121. Since the portions of the passivation layer 180 facing the transmissive areas 502 are removed to its full thickness, while the portions facing the slit areas 501 remain to have reduced thickness, sidewalls 181a, 182a and 183a of the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b have stepped profiles.

After removing the exposed portions of the gate insulating layer 140 to expose the underlying portions of the expansions 125 of the gate insulating layer 140, the exposed portions of the upper conductive films 752, 792 and 252 of the drain electrodes 175, the expansions 179 of the data lines 171, and the expansions 125 of the gate lines 121 are removed to expose underlying portions of the lower conductive films 751, 791 and 251 of the drain electrodes 175, the expansions 179 of the data lines 171, and the expansions 125 of the gate lines 121.

Finally, a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 92 and 97 are formed on the passivation layer 180 and on the exposed portions of the

lower conductive films 751, 791 and 251 of the drain electrodes 175, the expansions 125 of the gate lines 121, and the expansions 179 of the data lines 171 by sputtering and photo-etching an IZO or ITO layer with thickness of about 400-500 Å as shown in Figs. 1, 4 and 5.

5 An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Figs. 8-10.

Fig. 8 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention, Figs. 9 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 8 taken along the line IX-IV', and Fig. 10 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 8 taken along the
10 lines X-X' and X'-X''.

Referring to Figs. 8-10, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed therebetween.

Layered structures of the panels according to this embodiment are almost the same as those shown in Figs. 1-5.

15 Regarding the TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 including a plurality of gate electrodes 123 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 including a plurality of storage electrodes 133 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154, and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163
20 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality of data lines 171 including a plurality of source electrodes 173 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic contacts 161 and 165, and a passivation layer 180 is formed thereon. A plurality of contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b are provided at the passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140, and a plurality
25 of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the passivation layer 180.

Regarding the common electrode panel, a light blocking member 220, a plurality of color filters 230, an overcoat 250, and a common electrode 270 are formed on an insulating substrate 210.

30 Different from the LCD shown in Figs. 1-5, the semiconductor stripes 151 have almost the same planar shapes as the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 as well as the underlying ohmic contacts 161 and 165,. However, the projections 154

of the semiconductor stripes 151 include some exposed portions, which are not covered with the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175, such as portions located between the source electrodes 173 and the drain electrodes 175.

Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 1-5 may be
5 appropriate to the LCD shown in Figs. 8-10.

Now, a method of manufacturing the TFT array panel shown in Figs. 8-10 according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail.

Figs. 11A and 11B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Fig. 8-10 taken along the line IX-IX' and the lines X-X' and X'-X'', respectively, in an
10 intermediate step of a manufacturing method thereof according to an embodiment of the present invention; Figs. 12A and 12B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Fig. 8-10 taken along the line IX-IX' and the lines X-X' and X'-X'' in the step of the manufacturing method following the step shown in Figs. 11A and 11B; and Figs. 13A and 13B are sectional views of the TFT array panel shown in Fig. 8-10 taken along
15 the line IX-IX' and the lines X-X' and X'-X'' in the step of the manufacturing method following the step shown in Figs. 12A and 12B.

Referring to Figs. 11A and 11B, two conductive films, a lower conductive film and an upper conductive film are sputtered in sequence on an insulating substrate 110 and they are wet or dry etched in sequence to form a plurality of gate lines 121, each
20 including a plurality of gate electrodes 123 and an expansion 125, and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 including a plurality of storage electrodes 133. In Figs. 11A and 11B, the lower and the upper films of the gate electrodes 123 are indicated by reference numerals 231 and 232, respectively, the lower and the upper films of the expansions 125 are indicated by reference numerals 251 and 252, respectively, and the
25 lower and the upper films of the storage electrodes 133 are indicated by reference numerals 331 and 332, respectively.

Next, a gate insulating layer 140, an intrinsic a-Si layer 150, and an extrinsic a-Si layer 160 are sequentially deposited by CVD such that the layers 140, 150 and 160 bear thickness of about 1,500-5,000 Å, about 500-2,000 Å and about 300-600 Å,
30 respectively. A conductive layer 170 including a lower film 701 and an upper film 702 is deposited by sputtering, and a photoresist film with the thickness of about 1-2 microns is coated on the conductive layer 170.

The photoresist film is exposed to light through an exposure mask 600 including slit areas 601, and developed such that the developed photoresist PR has a position dependent thickness. The photoresist shown in Figs. 11A and 11B includes a plurality of first to third portions with decreased thickness. The first portions are located on first areas (referred to as "wire areas" hereinafter) and the second portions are located on second areas (referred to as "channel areas" hereinafter), respectively, while the third portions located on remaining third areas are not illustrated in the figures since they have substantially zero thickness to expose underlying portions of the conductive layer 170.

The different thickness of the photoresist PR enables to selectively etch the underlying layers when using suitable process conditions. Therefore, a plurality of data lines 171 including a plurality of source electrodes 173, and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 as well as a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163, a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 and a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154 are obtained by a series of etching steps as shown in Figs. 12A and 12B. In Figs. 12A and 12B, the lower and the upper films of the drain electrodes 171 are indicated by reference numerals 711 and 712, respectively, the lower and the upper films of the source electrodes 173 are indicated by reference numerals 731 and 732, respectively, the lower and the upper films of the drain electrodes 175 are indicated by reference numerals 751 and 752, respectively, and the lower and the upper films of the end portions 179 of the data lines 171 are indicated by reference numerals 791 and 792, respectively.

For descriptive purpose, portions of the conductive layer 170, the extrinsic a-Si layer 160, and the intrinsic a-Si layer 150 on the wire areas are called first portions, portions of the conductive layer 170, the extrinsic a-Si layer 160, and the intrinsic a-Si layer 150 on the channel areas are called second portions, and portions of the conductive layer 170, the extrinsic a-Si layer 160, and the intrinsic a-Si layer 150 on the third areas are called third portions.

An exemplary sequence of forming such a structure is as follows:

- (1) Removal of third portions of the conductive layer 170, the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 and the intrinsic a-Si layer 150 on the wire areas;
- (2) Removal of the second portions of the photoresist;

(3) Removal of the second portions of the conductive layer 170 and the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 on the channel areas; and

(4) Removal of the first portions of the photoresist.

Another exemplary sequence is as follows:

- 5 (1) Removal of the third portions of the conductive layer 170;
- (2) Removal of the second portions of the photoresist;
- (3) Removal of the third portions of the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 and the intrinsic a-Si layer 150;
- (4) Removal of the second portions of the conductive layer 170;
- 10 (5) Removal of the first portions of the photoresist; and
- (6) Removal of the second portions of the extrinsic a-Si layer 160.

The first example is described in detail.

At first, the exposed third portions of the conductive layer 170 on the third areas are removed by wet etching or dry etching to expose the underlying third portions of the extrinsic a-Si layer 160. The dry etching may etch out the top portions of the photoresist PR.

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Next, the third portions of the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 on the third areas and of the intrinsic a-Si layer 150 are removed preferably by dry etching and the second portions of the photoresist PR are removed to expose the second portions of the conductors 170. The removal of the second portions of the photoresist PR are performed either simultaneously with or independent from the removal of the third portions of the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 and of the intrinsic a-Si layer 150. A gas mixture of SF_6 and HCl or a gas mixture of SF_6 and O_2 can etch the a-Si layers 150 and 160 and the photoresist PR by nearly the same etching ratio. Residue of the second portions of the photoresist PR remained on the channel areas is removed by ashing.

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Next, the third portions of the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 on the third areas and of the intrinsic a-Si layer 150 are removed preferably by dry etching and the second portions of the photoresist PR are removed to expose the second portions of the conductors 170. The removal of the second portions of the photoresist PR are performed either simultaneously with or independent from the removal of the third portions of the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 and of the intrinsic a-Si layer 150. A gas mixture of SF_6 and HCl or a gas mixture of SF_6 and O_2 can etch the a-Si layers 150 and

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160 and the photoresist PR by nearly the same etching ratio. Residue of the second portions of the photoresist PR remained on the channel areas is removed by ashing.

The semiconductor stripes 151 are completed in this step.

5 Next, the second portions of the conductors 170 and the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 on the channel areas as well as the first portion of the photoresist PR are removed.

Both the conductors 170 and the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 may be dry etched.

Alternatively, the conductors 170 are wet etched, while the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 is dry etched. Since the wet etch etches out lateral sides of the conductors 170, while the dry etch hardly etch out lateral sides of the extrinsic a-Si layer 160, step-wise
10 lateral profiles are obtained. Examples of the gas mixtures are CF_4 and HCl and CF_4 and O_2 , as described above. The latter gas mixture leaves uniform thickness of the intrinsic semiconductor stripes 151.

In this way, each conductor 170 is divided into a data line 171 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 to be completed, and the extrinsic a-Si layer 160 is divided into
15 an ohmic contact stripe 161 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 to be completed.

Referring to Figs 13A and 13B, a passivation layer 180 made of a photosensitive organic insulator is coated and exposed through a photo-mask 900 having a plurality of transmissive areas 902 and a plurality of slit areas 901 disposed
20 around the transmissive areas 902. Accordingly, portions of the passivation layer 180 facing the transmissive areas 902 absorb the full energy of the light, while portions of the passivation layer 180 facing the slit areas 901 partially absorb the light energy. The passivation layer 180 is then developed to form a plurality of contact holes 181b and 183b exposing portions of the drain electrodes 175 and portions of the expansions
25 179 of the data lines 171, respectively, and to form upper portions of a plurality of contact holes 182b exposing portions of the gate insulating layer 140 disposed on the expansions 125 of the gate lines 121. Since the portions of the passivation layer 180 facing the transmissive areas 902 are removed to its full thickness, while the portions facing the slit areas 901 remain to have reduced thickness, sidewalls 181a, 182a and
30 183a of the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b have stepped profiles.

After removing the exposed portions of the gate insulating layer 140 to expose the underlying portions of the expansions 125 of the gate insulating layer 140, the

exposed portions of the upper conductive films 752, 792 and 252 of the drain electrodes 175, the expansions 179 of the data lines 171, and the expansions 125 of the gate lines 121 are removed to expose underlying portions of the lower conductive films 751, 791 and 251 of the drain electrodes 175, the expansions 179 of the data lines 171, and the expansions 125 of the gate lines 121.

The passivation layer 180 may be made of a photo-insensitive organic insulator or inorganic insulator having a low dielectric constant less than 4. In this case, an additional etching step for forming the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b is required.

Finally, a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 92 and 97 are formed on the passivation layer 180 and on the exposed portions of the lower conductive films 751, 791 and 251 of the drain electrodes 175, the expansions 125 of the gate lines 121, and the expansions 179 of the data lines 171 by sputtering and photo-etching an IZO or ITO film with thickness of about 400-500 Å as shown in Figs. 8-10.

The etching of the IZO film may include wet etching using a Cr etchant such as $\text{HNO}_3/(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Ce}(\text{NO}_3)_6/\text{H}_2\text{O}$, which does not erode the exposed Al portions of the drain electrodes 175, the gate lines 121, and the data lines 171 through the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b. A preferred deposition temperature for minimizing the contact resistance ranges from room temperature to about 200°C. A sputtering target for depositing IZO preferably includes In_2O_3 and ZnO and the content of ZnO is preferably in a range about 15-20 atomic%.

Nitrogen, which can prevent the formation of metal oxides on the exposed portions of the drain electrodes 175, the gate lines 121, and the data lines 171 through the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b, is preferably used for a pre-heating process before the deposition of the ITO film or the IZO film.

An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Figs. 14-16.

Fig. 14 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention, Fig. 15 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 14 taken along the line XV-XV', and Fig. 16 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 14 taken along the lines XVI-XVI' and XVI'-XVI''.

Referring to Figs. 14-16, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed therebetween.

Regarding a TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 including a plurality of gate electrodes 123 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 including a plurality of storage electrodes 133 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154, and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality of data lines 171 including a plurality of source electrodes 173 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic contacts 161 and 165 and the gate insulating layer 140.

A first passivation layer 801 preferably made of inorganic insulator such as SiNx is formed on the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175.

A plurality of red, green and blue color filters 230R, 230G and 230B is formed on the first passivation layer 801 and they are disposed substantially between the data lines 171. The color filters 230R, 230G or 230B in adjacent two data lines 171 and arranged in the longitudinal direction may be connected to each other to form a periodically-curved stripe. The neighboring color filters 230R, 230G and 230B overlap each other on the data lines 171 to form hills. The color filters 230R, 230G and 230B have a plurality of openings disposed on the drain electrodes 175 and are not provided on a peripheral area which is provided with the expansions 125 and 179 of the gate lines 121 and the data lines 179.

A second passivation layer 802 preferably made of photosensitive organic material is formed on the color filters 230R, 230G and 230B. The second passivation layer 802 also forms hills when running over the hills formed by the color filters 230R, 230G and 230B and the hills of the second passivation layer 802 enhance the control of the tilt directions of LC molecules in the LC layer 3. The second passivation layer 802 The overcoat 250 prevents the color filters 230 from being exposed through the cutouts 271 of the common electrode 270 to contaminate the LC layer 3 and it may be made of inorganic insulator such as SiNx and SiO₂.

The passivation layers 801 and 802 have a plurality of contact holes 181b and 183b, and the passivation layers 801 and 802 and the gate insulating layer 140 have a

plurality of contact holes 182b. The openings of the color filters 230R, 230G and 230B expose the contact holes 181b and a top surface of the first passivation layer 801.

A plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the second passivation layer 802.

5 The common electrode panel includes a light blocking member 220 and a common electrode 270 formed on an insulating substrate 210. Comparing the common electrode panel shown in Figs. 2, 4 and 5, the common electrode panel shown in Figs. 14-16 has no color filter and no overcoat.

10 Since the color filters 230R, 230G and 230B and the pixel electrodes 190 are provided on the TFT array panel, the LCD shown in Figs. 14-16 may have a large alignment margin for aligning the TFT array panel and the common electrode panel.

15 A TFT array panel shown in Figs. 14-16 may be manufactured by depositing a first passivation layer 801, forming a plurality of red, green, and blue color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B, coating a second passivation layer 802 made of a photosensitive organic layer, exposing and developing the passivation layer 802 to form upper portions of a plurality of contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b, removing exposed portions of the first passivation layer 801 and the gate insulating layer 140 to form lower portions of the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b, and forming a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97, after forming the gate lines 121, the storage electrode lines 131, the gate insulating layer 140, the semiconductor stripes 151, the ohmic contacts 161 and 165, the data lines 171, and the drain electrodes 175 as described above with reference to Figs. 6A-7B. The formation of the color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B includes thrice repetitions of coating, exposing, and developing a photosensitive film including a colored pigment.

25 Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 1-5 may be appropriate to the LCD shown in Figs. 14-16.

An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Figs. 17-19.

30 Fig. 17 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention, Fig. 18 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 17 taken along the line XVIII-XVIII', and Fig. 19 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in Fig. 17 taken along the lines XIX-XIX' and XIX'-XIX''.

Referring to Figs. 17-19, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed therebetween.

Layered structures of the panels according to this embodiment are almost the same as those shown in Figs. 14-16.

5 Concerning the TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154, and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality
10 of data lines 171 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic contacts 161 and 165, and a first passivation layer 801 is formed thereon. A plurality of red, green and blue color filters 230 are formed on the first passivation layer 801 and a second passivation layer 802 is formed thereon. A plurality of contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b are provided at the first and the second passivation layers 801 and 802
15 and the gate insulating layer 140, and a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the second passivation layer 802.

Concerning the common electrode panel, a light blocking member 220 and a common electrode 270 are sequentially formed on an insulating substrate 210.

20 Different from the LCD shown in Figs. 14-16, the semiconductor stripes 151 have almost the same planar shapes as the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 as well as the underlying ohmic contacts 161 and 165. However, the projections 154 of the semiconductor stripes 151 include some exposed portions, which are not covered with the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 such as portions located between the source electrodes 173 and the drain electrodes 175.

25 A TFT array panel shown in Figs. 17-19 may be manufactured by forming a first passivation layer 801, a plurality of red, green, and blue color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B, a second passivation layer 802, a plurality of pixel electrodes 190, and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 based on the steps described with reference to Figs. 14-16, after forming the gate lines 121, the storage electrode lines 131, the gate
30 insulating layer 140, the semiconductor stripes 151, the ohmic contacts 161 and 165, the data lines 171, and the drain electrodes 175 based on the steps described with reference to Figs. 11A-13B.

Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 14-16 may cover the LCD shown in Figs. 17-19.

An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Figs. 20 and 21.

5 Figs. 20 and 21 are sectional views of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention, which have a similar layout as the LCD shown in Fig. 14.

Referring to Figs. 20 and 21, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed
10 therebetween.

Layered structures of the panels according to this embodiment are almost the same as those shown in Figs. 15 and 16.

Concerning the TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer
15 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154, and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality of data lines 171 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic
20 contacts 161 and 165, and a passivation layer 180 is formed thereon. A plurality of red, green and blue color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B are formed on the passivation layer 801 and a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the second passivation layer 802. A plurality of contact holes 181b,
25 182b and 183b are provided at the passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140.

Concerning the common electrode panel, a light blocking member 220 and a common electrode 270 are sequentially formed on an insulating substrate 210.

Different from the LCD shown in Figs. 14-16, there is no additional passivation layer on the color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B. Accordingly, lateral
30 surfaces of openings of the color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B exposing the contact holes 181b serve as upper portions of sidewalls 181a of the contact holes 181b to smooth the profiles thereof as shown in Fig. 20. This structure is preferable when the color filters 230R, 230G and 230B do not discharge impurities such as pigment.

Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 14-16 may cover the LCD shown in Figs. 20-21.

An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Figs. 22 and 23.

5 Figs. 22 and 23 are sectional views of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention, which have a similar layout as the LCD shown in Fig. 17.

Referring to Figs. 22 and 23, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed
10 therebetween.

Layered structures of the panels according to this embodiment are almost the same as those shown in Figs. 20 and 21.

Concerning the TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer
15 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154, and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality of data lines 171 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic
20 contacts 161 and 165, and a passivation layer 180 is formed thereon. A plurality of red, green and blue color filters 230 are formed on the passivation layer 180. A plurality of contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b are provided at the passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140, and a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the passivation layer 180.

Concerning the common electrode panel, a light blocking member 220 and a
25 common electrode 270 are sequentially formed on an insulating substrate 210.

Different from the LCD shown in Figs. 20 and 21, the semiconductor stripes 151 have almost the same planar shapes as the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 as well as the underlying ohmic contacts 161 and 165. However, the projections 154 of the semiconductor stripes 151 include some exposed portions, which are not
30 covered with the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 such as portions located between the source electrodes 173 and the drain electrodes 175.

Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 20 and 21 may cover the LCD shown in Figs. 22 and 23.

An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Figs. 24 and 25.

5 Figs. 24 and 25 are sectional views of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention, which have a similar layout as the LCD shown in Fig. 14.

Referring to Figs. 24 and 25, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed
10 therebetween.

Layered structures of the panels according to this embodiment are almost the same as those shown in Figs. 20 and 21.

Concerning the TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer
15 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154, and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality of data lines 171 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic
20 contacts 161 and 165, and a passivation layer 180 is formed thereon. A plurality of red, green and blue color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B are formed on the passivation layer 801 and a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the second passivation layer 802. A plurality of contact holes 181b,
25 182b and 183b are provided at the passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140.

Concerning the common electrode panel, a light blocking member 220 and a common electrode 270 are sequentially formed on an insulating substrate 210.

Different from the LCD shown in Figs. 20 and 21, the color filters 230R, 230G or 230B are also disposed on a peripheral area which is provided with expansions 125 and 179 of the gate lines 121 and the data lines 179. Although Fig. 25 shows that a red
30 color filter 230R is disposed on the peripheral area, any one or more of the red, green and blue color filters 230G and 230B may be provided on the peripheral area. In addition, the color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B have a plurality of openings forming

upper portions of sidewalls 181a, 182a and 183a of the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b. Accordingly, lateral surfaces of the openings of the color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B are smoothly connected to the lateral surfaces of the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b at the passivation layer 180.

5 A TFT array panel shown in Figs. 14-16 may be manufactured by depositing a passivation layer 180, forming a plurality of red, green, and blue color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B having openings forming upper portions of a plurality of contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b exposing portions of the passivation layer 180, removing exposed portions of the passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140 to form lower
10 portions of the contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b, and forming a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97, after forming the gate lines 121, the storage electrode lines 131, the gate insulating layer 140, the semiconductor stripes 151, the ohmic contacts 161 and 165, the data lines 171, and the drain electrodes 175 as described above with reference to Figs. 6A-7B.

15 Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 20 and 21 may cover the LCD shown in Figs. 24 and 25.

An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Figs. 26 and 27.

20 Figs. 26 and 27 are sectional views of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention, which have a similar layout as the LCD shown in Fig. 17.

Referring to Figs. 26 and 27, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed therebetween.

25 Layered structures of the panels according to this embodiment are almost the same as those shown in Figs. 24 and 25.

Concerning the TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154,
30 and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality of data lines 171 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic

contacts 161 and 165, and a passivation layer 180 is formed thereon. A plurality of red, green and blue color filters 230 are formed on the passivation layer 180. A plurality of contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b are provided at the color filters 230R, 230G, and 230B, the passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140, and a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the passivation layer 180.

Concerning the common electrode panel, a light blocking member 220 and a common electrode 270 are sequentially formed on an insulating substrate 210.

Different from the LCD shown in Figs. 24 and 25, the semiconductor stripes 151 have almost the same planar shapes as the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 as well as the underlying ohmic contacts 161 and 165. However, the projections 154 of the semiconductor stripes 151 include some exposed portions, which are not covered with the data lines 171 and the drain electrodes 175 such as portions located between the source electrodes 173 and the drain electrodes 175.

Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 24 and 25 may cover the LCD shown in Figs. 26 and 27.

An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Fig. 28.

Fig. 28 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention.

The structure of the LCD according to this embodiment is almost the same as that shown in Figs. 1-5. Referring to Fig. 28 as well as Figs. 4 and 5, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed therebetween.

Regarding the TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 including a plurality of gate electrodes 123 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 including a plurality of storage electrodes 133 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154, and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality of data lines 171 including a plurality of source electrodes 173 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic contacts 161 and 165, and a passivation

layer 180 is formed thereon. A plurality of contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b are provided at the passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140, and a plurality of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the passivation layer 180.

5 Regarding the common electrode panel, a light blocking member 220, a plurality of color filters 230, an overcoat 250, and a common electrode 270 having a plurality cutouts 217 are formed on an insulating substrate 210. Each cutout 271 includes a pair of oblique portions connected to each other and a longitudinal portion connected to one of the oblique portions.

10 Different from the LCD shown in Fig. 3, the cutouts 271 of the common electrode 270 have no transverse portion.

Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 1-5 may be appropriate to the LCD shown in Fig. 28.

15 An LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Fig. 29.

Fig. 29 is a layout view of an LCD according to another embodiment of the present invention.

20 The structure of the LCD according to this embodiment is almost the same as that shown in Figs. 1-5. Referring to Fig. 29 as well as Figs. 4 and 5, an LCD according to this embodiment also includes a TFT array panel, a common electrode panel, and a LC layer 3 interposed therebetween.

25 Regarding the TFT array panel, a plurality of gate lines 121 including a plurality of gate electrodes 123 and a plurality of storage electrode lines 131 including a plurality of storage electrodes 133 are formed on a substrate 110, and a gate insulating layer 140, a plurality of semiconductor stripes 151 including a plurality of projections 154, and a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including a plurality of projections 163 and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 165 are sequentially formed thereon. A plurality of data lines 171 including a plurality of source electrodes 173 and a plurality of drain electrodes 175 are formed on the ohmic contacts 161 and 165, and a passivation layer 180 is formed thereon. A plurality of contact holes 181b, 182b and 183b are provided at the passivation layer 180 and the gate insulating layer 140, and a plurality

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of pixel electrodes 190 and a plurality of contact assistants 95 and 97 are formed on the passivation layer 180.

Regarding the common electrode panel, a light blocking member 220, a plurality of color filters 230, an overcoat 250, and a common electrode 270 having a plurality cutouts 217 are formed on an insulating substrate 210. Each cutout 271 includes a pair of oblique portions connected to each other, a transverse edge portion connected to one of the oblique portions, and a longitudinal edge portion connected to the other of the oblique portions.

Different from the LCD shown in Fig. 3, each of the cutouts 271 of the common electrode 270 has a transverse center portion connected to a meeting point of the oblique portions and making an obtuse angle with the oblique portions. In addition, each of the pixel electrodes 190 has a transverse cutout coinciding with the transverse center portion of the common electrode 270. The transverse portions of the pixel electrode 190 and the common electrode 270 assist the domain partitioning.

Many of the above-described features of the LCD shown in Figs. 1-5 may be appropriate to the LCD shown in Fig. 28.

While the present invention has been described in detail with reference to the preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications and substitutions can be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as set forth in the appended claims.

[ADVANTAGE OF THE INVENTION]

Pixel electrode forms a chevron by data line having curved portions. Therefore, a electric field between the adjacent pixel electrodes is almost always generated to enhance the stability of the domains.

Also, since the tilt directions of all domains make an angle of about 45 degrees with the gate lines, which are parallel to or perpendicular to the edges of the panels, and the 45-degree intersection of the tilt directions and the transmissive axes of the polarizers gives maximum transmittance, the polarizers can be attached such that the transmissive axes of the polarizers are parallel to or perpendicular to the edges of the panels and it reduces the production cost.

[CLAIMS]

1. A thin film transistor array panel comprising:
a substrate;
a plurality of first signal lines formed on the substrate, extending in a first
5 direction, and separated from each other by a predetermined interval;
a plurality of second lines formed on the substrate, intersecting the first signal
lines, and including a plurality of curved portions and intermediate portions extending
in a second direction and alternately arranged by the predetermined interval;
a plurality of pixel electrodes located substantially in areas defined by the first
10 and the second signal lines; and
a plurality of thin film transistors connected to the first and the second signal
lines and the pixel electrodes.
2. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 1, wherein each of the
curved portions of the data lines comprises a pair of rectilinear portions connected to
15 each other and making an angle of about 45 degrees.
3. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 1, further comprising a
plurality of third signal lines formed on the substrate, extending substantially in the
first direction, and overlapping the pixel electrodes to form storage capacitors and
wherein the thin film transistors include terminal electrodes connected to the pixel
20 electrodes and overlapping one of the third signal lines with interposing an insulator.
4. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 1, wherein the thin film
transistors include terminal electrodes connected to the intermediate portions of the
second signal lines and the first signal lines intersect the intermediate portions of the
second signal lines.
- 25 5. A thin film transistor array panel comprising:
a substrate;
a gate line formed on the substrate and including a gate electrode;
a gate insulating layer formed on the gate line;
a semiconductor layer formed on the gate insulating layer;
30 a data line formed on the semiconductor layer at least in part and including a
curved portion and an intermediate portion crossing the gate line substantially at a

right angle, at least one of the curved portions and the intermediate portions having a source electrode;

a drain electrode formed on the semiconductor layer at least in part and separated from the data line;

5 a first passivation layer formed on the data line and the drain electrode; and

a pixel electrode formed on the first passivation layer, connected to the drain electrode, and having an edge extending substantially parallel to the curved portion of the data line.

6. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 5, wherein the curved
10 portion of the data line comprises a pair of portions making a clockwise angle of about 45 degrees and a counterclockwise angle of about 45 degrees, respectively.

7. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 5, further comprising a storage electrode line formed on the substrate, extending substantially parallel to the gate lines, and including a storage electrode having an increased width, wherein the
15 drain electrode has an expansion connected to the pixel electrode and overlapping the storage electrode.

8. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 5, wherein the first passivation layer comprises organic insulating material.

9. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 8, wherein the first
20 passivation layer is made of photosensitive material.

10. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 5, wherein the first passivation layer comprises inorganic insulating material and further comprising a color filter formed on the first passivation layer.

11. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 10, wherein the color
25 filter extends substantially parallel to the data line.

12. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 10, wherein the color filter has an opening on the drain electrode, the first passivation layer has a contact hole exposing at least a portion of the drain electrode, and the pixel electrode is connected to the drain electrode through the opening and the contact hole.

30 13. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 12, wherein the opening exposes a top surface of the first passivation layer.

14. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 10, further comprising a contact assistant formed on a portion of the gate line or a portion of the data line and made of the same material as the pixel electrode.

15. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 14, wherein the color filter includes a portion formed under the contact assistant.

16. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 10, further comprising a second passivation layer formed on the color filter and made of a photosensitive organic material.

17. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 16, wherein the first and the second passivation layers have a contact hole that exposes at least a portion of the drain electrode and has a sidewall making an angle of about 30 degrees to about 85 degrees with a surface of the substrate, and the pixel electrode is connected to the drain electrode through the contact hole.

18. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 16, wherein the first and the second passivation layers have a contact hole that exposes at least a portion of the drain electrode and has a stepped sidewall, and the pixel electrode is connected to the drain electrode through the contact hole.

19. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 10, further comprising a pair of color filters formed on the first passivation layer and partly overlapping each other to form a hill and comprising a second passivation layer formed on the color filters and forming a projection on the hill of the color filters.

20. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 5, wherein entire bottom surfaces of the data line and the drain electrode are disposed substantially on the semiconductor layer, the data line and the drain electrode have substantially the same planar shape as the semiconductor layer, and the semiconductor layer includes a portion that is not covered with the data line and the drain electrode and disposed between the source electrode and the drain electrode.

21. The thin film transistor array panel of claim 5, wherein a length of the curved portion of the data line is about one to nine times a length of the intermediate portion of the data line.

22. A liquid crystal display comprising:
a first substrate;

a plurality of first signal lines formed on the substrate;
a plurality of second lines formed on the substrate, intersecting the first signal lines, and including a plurality of curved portions;
a plurality of pixel electrodes located substantially in areas defined by the first and the second signal lines;
a plurality of thin film transistors connected to the first and the second signal lines and the pixel electrodes;
a second substrate facing the second substrate;
a common electrode formed on the second substrate;
a region partitioning member formed on at least one of the first and the second substrates; and
a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first substrate and the second substrate and partitioned into a plurality of tilt regions by the region partitioning member, each tilt region including a pair of major edges parallel to the curved portions of the second signal lines.

23. The liquid crystal display of claim 22, wherein the liquid crystal layer has negative dielectric anisotropy and is subject to vertically alignment.

24. The liquid crystal display of claim 22, wherein the region partitioning member comprises a plurality of cutouts formed in the common electrode.

25. The liquid crystal display of claim 24, wherein the cutouts have width ranging about 9 microns to about 12 microns.

26. The liquid crystal display of claim 22, wherein a distance between the major edges of each region is in a range between about 10 microns and about 30 microns.

27. The liquid crystal display of claim 22, wherein the tilt regions are classified into four domains based on tilt directions of liquid crystal molecules included therein upon application of an electric field.

28. The liquid crystal display of claim 22, wherein the number of the tilt regions in a pixel region defined by the first signal lines and the second signal lines is four if a planar area of the pixel region is smaller than about 100×300 square microns, and the number of the tilt regions in a pixel region defined by the first signal lines and

the second signal lines is four or eight if a planar area of the pixel region is equal to or larger than about 100×300 square microns.

29. The liquid crystal display of claim 22, wherein a pair of crossed polarizers are provided on outer surfaces of the first and the second substrates, respectively, and the first and the second polarizers are aligned so that one of the transmissive axes of the polarizers be parallel to the first signal lines.

30. The liquid crystal display of claim 22, wherein the region partitioning member comprises a protrusion formed on the common electrode and having a width ranging about 5 microns to about 10 microns.

31. A liquid crystal display comprising:
a first substrate;
a plurality of first signal lines formed on the substrate;
a plurality of second lines formed on the substrate, intersecting the first signal lines, and including a plurality of curved portions;

a plurality of pixel electrodes located substantially in areas defined by the first and the second signal lines;

a plurality of thin film transistors connected to the first and the second signal lines and the pixel electrodes;

a second substrate facing the second substrate;

a common electrode formed on the second substrate;

a region partitioning member formed on at least one of the first and the second substrates; and

a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first substrate and the second substrate and partitioned into a plurality of tilt regions by the region partitioning member,

wherein liquid crystal molecules included in each tilt region tend to tilt in a direction parallel to an electric field generated between adjacent pixel electrodes.

32. The liquid crystal display of claim 31, wherein a pair of crossed polarizers are provided on outer surfaces of the first and the second substrates, respectively, and the first and the second polarizers are aligned so that one of the transmissive axes of the polarizers be parallel to the first signal lines.